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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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SECURITY INFORMATION

**INFORMATION REPORT**

REPORT NO.

25X1

CD NO.

COUNTRY Rumania

DATE DISTR. 25 March 1952

25X1 SUBJECT Controls and Activity at the  
Port of Constanta

NO. OF PAGES 3



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1. On its way from Istanbul to Constanta the  followed the course shown on nautical charts to navigate around the minefield outside Constanta. No pilot came to guide the ship into Constanta, and the ship captain took the ship in himself. Later the pilot came aboard and told the captain that there was no need to worry because there were no mines there anymore. When the ship left the harbor it was taken through the area which was supposedly mined.
2. The  arrived in Constanta at noon, and after being inspected by a doctor and a sanitation expert, it was berthed beside the grain elevators. The pilot who took the ship from its anchored position to the berth was accompanied by an armed Militia man.  an armed man always accompanies the pilot. The Militia man follows all movements of the pilot and observes his contacts with the crew.
3. After the ship had been berthed the Harbor Inspector came aboard to inspect the holds. He was accompanied by two assistants but there were no armed men with him. After verifying the seaworthy condition of the ship, a permit for loading was given to the captain.
4. Next to come aboard were, a representative of Sovromtransport, two customs officials in uniform, four Militia men (without rank) in uniform, and two Communist Party members in civilian clothes. This group asked to see the ship's documents, the declaration of ship's stores, the foreign currency declarations, and the list of the crew members. All of the seamen's identity books were gathered together, and the inspectors looked for each name in a thick book which they carried with them.  the thick book contained names of persons sought by the Rumanian authorities. All the crew members were then gathered and the photograph on their seaman's book was checked. After this check was concluded, all of the crew was placed in one of the ship's rooms and two

25X1

25X1

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## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

SECRET

- 2 -

25X1

teams, each composed of a customs official, two Militia men, and a Communist Party member, went on an inspection of the ship accompanied by one of the crew members. The teams searched all of the ship's compartments, including the peaks, the engine room, and the bunker hold. [redacted] they were searching for stowaways, undeclared articles, and anti-Communist pamphlets. All articles found aboard the ship which were handled in Rumania through government monopolies (arms, cameras, et cetera) were sealed aboard the ship. The ship's radio station was also sealed.

5. The ship was guarded by two Rumanian soldiers of the frontier guard who were armed with sub-machine guns. Laborers going aboard the ship were checked by these guards when they came aboard and when they left. Each of the laborers had a special identity card bearing his photograph which was issued to him by the harbor Militia. Once aboard, the laborers were able to communicate easily with the crew, but they were afraid of each other. They were eager to receive American cigarettes, black pepper, and American dollars. Several of the sailors of [redacted] bought fur caps with American cigarettes. The laborers were able to smuggle the cigarettes out of the harbor area. All of the laborers complained about their pay, living conditions, and the regime.

25X1

6. Whenever the ship captain wanted to go to one of the offices ashore, he had to notify the guards, who in turn telephoned a Militia man who would accompany the captain. The representatives of the shipping agents who came aboard were also accompanied by a Militia man and watched closely.

7. Ship crews were normally permitted to go ashore after they had completed certain formalities. The crew of the [redacted] however, was not permitted to go ashore. This may have been because the authorities

25X1

[redacted] Permission for a number of men to go ashore was requested, but the request was never answered.

8. The following persons visited the ship as agents of Sovromtransport:

a.

25X1

- b. Lazar Herscovici, 55 or 56 years of age, a Rumanian Jew, also formerly employed by Watson and Youell.
- c. Waxman, a Rumanian Jew.
- d. Stefanos Aristidis, a Greek employed as ship provisioner.

SECRET

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

SECRET

- 3 -

25X1

25X1

25X1

9. During the [ ] stay at Constanta there was considerable activity in the harbor: [ ] ships were unloading general cargo; an [ ] steamer was loading cement; a large [ ] was loading grain; a [ ] was loading timber; a [ ] tanker and two Soviet tankers were loading oil; and three Soviet ships were loading general cargo. The Soviet ships had no guns on their decks, and informant did not see any emplacements for guns. There were also two small Rumanian destroyers in the harbor.

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